

Veterans at the Forefront

2013

Annual Report



WASHINGTON DC
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
CAPITOL ★ EXCELLENCE



Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center

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“Capitol Excellence” – Veterans at the Forefront



Medical Center Director Brian A. Hawkins with 102-year-old WWII Veteran George Boggess. Mr. Boggess was in the US Army from 1942 to 1946, serving in England, France, Luxembourg, Germany and Belgium. He earned a Purple Heart for injuries he sustained during the “Battle of the Bulge”. He also received the Silver Star for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

The Washington DC VA Medical Center embraces its unique location and its exclusive mission to respect and serve our nation’s Veterans by honoring them with excellent health care. I am extremely proud of the staff and volunteers, and of all we have accomplished in 2013. Together, we are building a culture of “Capitol Excellence” that is based upon employee, Veteran and community engagement, cultural transformation and operational excellence.

With Veterans at the forefront, in 2013, we demonstrated our commitment to caring by providing health care to over 1,263,472 Veterans and by enrolling 106,903 unique Veterans into the VA health care system. From exceeding national benchmarks in breast cancer screening for women Veterans to employing mobile health applications, we continue to be leaders in the use of technology and Veteran-centered research.

This *Annual Report* tells the story of how we are working in tandem, engaging staff, community partners, stakeholders and other federal agencies to ensure Veterans of all eras and their families are at the forefront of VA health care. We pride ourselves on excellence. The culture of the DC VA Medical Center has truly transformed in the past year. Our commitment to patient care, patient safety, research and teaching ensures organizational growth and strength well into the future. It is a privilege to lead this organization.

Sincerely,

Brian A. Hawkins, MHA
Medical Center Director

Patient-Centered Care

Healing Through Gardening

The All Veterans Garden was implemented by a small group of Veterans as part of a War Related Injury and Illness Study Center project. The idea has grown into a horticultural and nutrition education program. The large community garden, located on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, provides recreational benefits to improve the quality of life for Veterans of all eras.



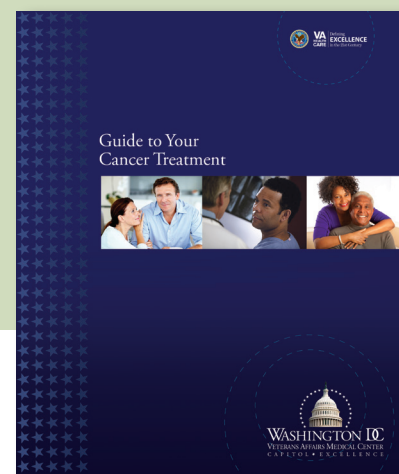
Surgical Service

The Washington DC VA Medical Center’s surgical staff continues to evolve to meet Veterans’ needs and to distinguish itself as a leader in the field of surgery. In 2013, our surgeons performed 3,800 operating room procedures and had over 50,000 outpatient clinic visits. The DCVAMC surgical service is a regional and national leader in:

- Number of procedures performed
- Lowest Mortality statistics
- Lowest Morbidity statistics
- Highest Complexity of procedures

Oncology Handbook and Support Group

Education, coupled with camaraderie among Veterans, is a powerful cancer treatment combination. To help patients and caregivers understand cancer and the treatment processes, Oncology created a Cancer Support Group and a customizable Oncology Handbook written in easy-to-understand language. The handbook was presented at the National Association of Veterans Affairs’ Hematology and Oncology Conference in Atlanta, GA and is now available to all 132 Veterans Health Administration cancer care programs.



Veterans at the Forefront

Peter Munley

U.S. Army Air Corps 1943 – 1945

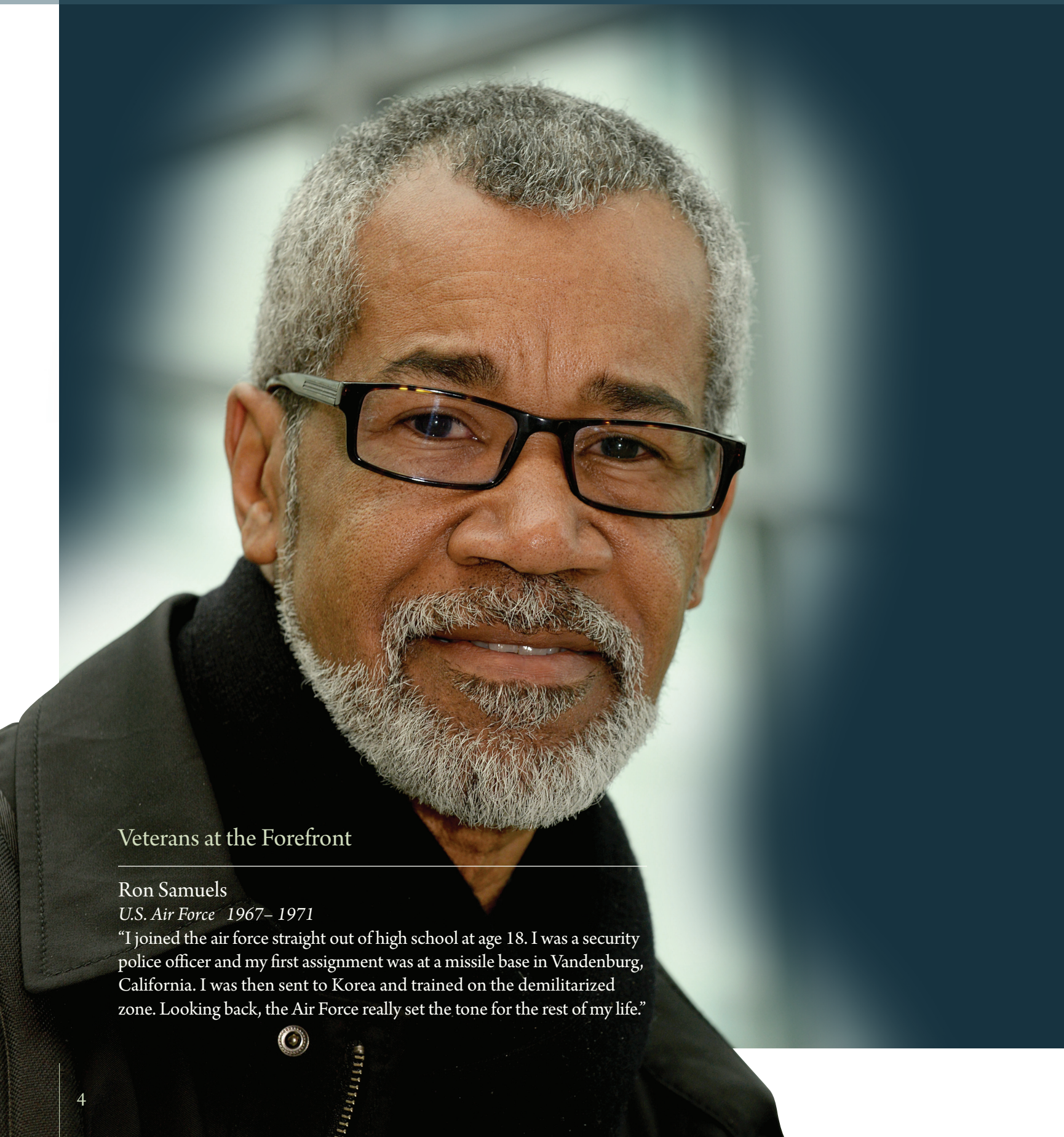
“I was 18-years old and drafted into the army in 1943. I was attached to the Tenth Air Force serving in the China-Burma-India Theater, where I flew one of the longest B-24 Liberator bomber missions over ‘The Hump’ into China.”



Health and Wellness Links

The War Related Illness and Injury Study Center (WRIISC) launched a new web-based tool to connect Veterans with the host of integrative and complementary services available at the Medical Center. “Health and Wellness Links” is a comprehensive web page which includes health information ranging from smoking cessation and yoga classes to a Virtual Wellness Clinic.

Patient-Centered Care



Veterans at the Forefront

Ron Samuels

U.S. Air Force 1967– 1971

“I joined the air force straight out of high school at age 18. I was a security police officer and my first assignment was at a missile base in Vandenberg, California. I was then sent to Korea and trained on the demilitarized zone. Looking back, the Air Force really set the tone for the rest of my life.”



Home Based Primary Care and Medical Foster Home Programs

Washington DC VA Medical Center takes pride in offering health care beyond the walls of the Medical Center. The Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) Program experienced rapid growth in 2013, growing from 210 patients in 2012 to 264 patients. The HBPC Program provides health care to Veterans in their homes, making VA health care more accessible. A new HBPC team was established in Charlotte Hall, Maryland to expand care to rural areas and has already enrolled more than 50 Veterans.

After more than a year of hard work and planning, the Medical Foster Home program was launched in 2013 to further expand care opportunities for Veterans. Medical foster homes are private care residences which serve as an alternative to a nursing home. Homes are inspected and approved by a VA interdisciplinary team and the patients receive regular visits from (HBPC) teams.

Wedding Bells at the Medical Center

The commitment to caring for all Veterans is evident throughout the Medical Center. At the heart of patient-centered care are staff members in Chaplain Service who partner with other Medical Center employees to organize weddings in honor of Veterans’ wishes. Wedding bells rang at the All Faiths Chapel in 2013 for Veteran William Banefield who married his partner of 25 years, Sarah Goodwin Thomas in January. In April, Army Veteran April Goodwin and Navy Veteran Matthew Gill married after meeting during a VA Creative Arts Festival.

Expanding Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Services

In order to meet the needs of Capital Area Veterans, Audiology extended its clinic hours. Services have been expanded to community clinics, offering Veterans closer to home care in Ft. Belvoir, VA; Charlotte Hall, MD; and Camp Springs, MD. Also, Telehealth speech-language pathology services are now offered at several community clinics.

Operational Excellence

FY 13 Statistics

Total Revenues \$461,658,611

Reimbursements \$1,714,634

Medical Care Cost Recovery \$25,251,337

Medical Care Appropriations \$434,692,640



Total Expenditures \$461,658,611

Capital Asset Expenditures \$23,654,379

Supplies and Services \$168,700,708

Salaries \$269,303,524



Veterans at the Forefront

Richard Lavin

U.S. Marine Corps 1955 – 1975

“During one of my tours as a Marine, I was responsible for guarding a top secret radio communication center in Morocco along with the French Foreign Legion. During this tour of duty, the French surrendered [their protectorate] back to the people of Morocco.”



Encounters

Encounters¹

2012 1,248,880

2013 1,263,472

Enrollees²

2012 97,194

2013 106,903

Women Veterans²

2012 14,693

2013 16,087

Active Enrollees²

2012 74,602

2013 71,190

¹Source: VISTA
²Source: VSSC

Voluntary Service

Volunteers on Rolls End of Period

764

Total Volunteer Hours

81,377

Item Donations

\$333,588

Total Donations

\$600,127

Volunteer Hourly Value

81,377@ \$22.14 per hour as per Dept. of Labor

\$1,801,686

Total Resource Impact

\$2,401,813

Capital Asset Expenditures

Furnishings

\$2,250,269

Equipment

\$13,964,860

NRM Construction

\$7,589,150

Minor Construction

\$4,271,811

Employees

2,297

The efforts of Voluntary Service impact almost every aspect of the Medical Center, from clerical support and companions for in-patients to transporting Veterans to their appointments.

The Volunteer Transportation Network has met the challenge of getting Veterans who have no other means of transportation, back and forth to their medical appointments. The Volunteer Transportation Network transported 3,552 Veteran patients to the Medical Center in 2013.

Operational Excellence



Mobile Health Applications

The Washington DC VA Medical Center has long been at the forefront of electronic health technology. In 2013, the Medical Center laid the groundwork and served as a pilot test site for a number of mobile health projects. The projects are intended to increase the convenience of accessing VA health care resources for Veterans and their caregivers and to increase the efficiency of VA health care team members. Among the projects getting underway are a text-messaging-based communications outreach to Veterans, a workflow

and patient flow optimization pilot, a pilot of patient-directed scheduling via mobile devices, and the VA Mobile Health Provider Program. Getting these specially configured mobile devices into the hands of VA health care providers will help to streamline delivery of care. Moving forward, VA will be launching a variety of mobile applications and mobile-optimized web sites to assist Veterans with accessing their information and communicating with their health care providers while on-the-go.

Prevention Measures

Helping to keep Veterans well with preventative measures is a top priority. Convincing smokers to stop is a first step in living a healthy life. In 2013, the Medical Center exceeded the national average for the Tobacco Composite. The composite includes counseling, referrals and medication offers.

Tobacco Cessation	
Washington DC VAMC Tobacco Composite:	97.50
National Average Tobacco Composite:	95.29
Source: VSSC	

The Medical Center also exceeded its benchmark for breast cancer screening for women Veterans ages 50-69.

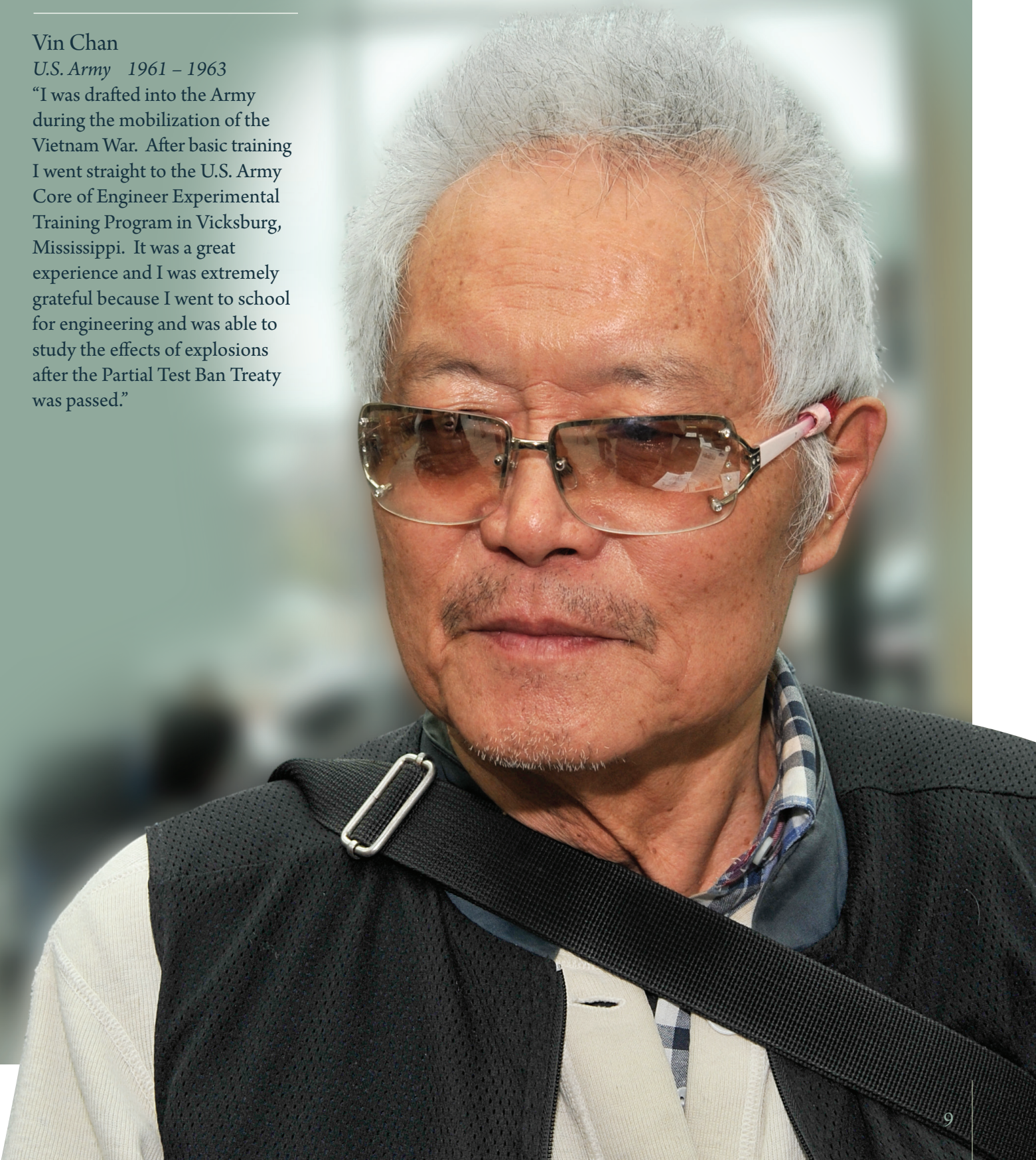
Breast Cancer Screenings	
Washington DC VAMC:	86
National Average Benchmark:	77
Source: VSSC	

Mental Health Summit

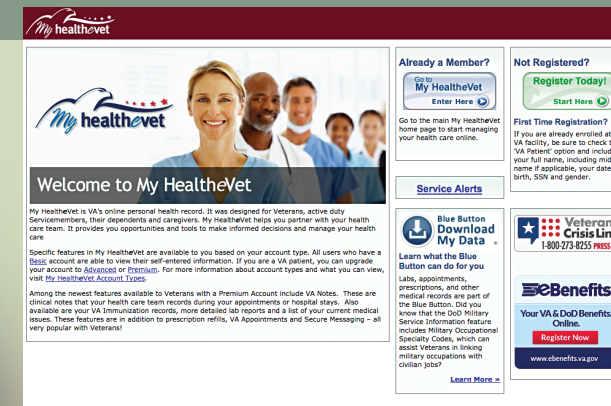
With a focus on meeting the mental health care needs of Veterans, VA officials, community partners and stakeholders joined forces for the Mental Health Summit at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. Through collaboration, VA promotes awareness and utilization of mental health resources, helps Veterans gain access to community services, and builds healthy communities.

Veterans at the Forefront

Vin Chan
U.S. Army 1961 – 1963
“I was drafted into the Army during the mobilization of the Vietnam War. After basic training I went straight to the U.S. Army Core of Engineer Experimental Training Program in Vicksburg, Mississippi. It was a great experience and I was extremely grateful because I went to school for engineering and was able to study the effects of explosions after the Partial Test Ban Treaty was passed.”



Operational Excellence



MyHealtheVet

VA's web-based health management tool, My HealtheVet, continues to grow in popularity. At the end of 2013, 60,450 Veterans were enrolled in My HealtheVet with access to monitor their weight, blood pressure, glucose and order prescriptions. The number of Veterans utilizing secure messaging to communicate with their health care providers has risen to 10,655. Secure messaging is a safe and reliable messaging tool to bridge communication between Veterans and their providers.



Strategic Planning Retreat

In September, the Medical Center's Leadership Team reinforced their “Commitment to Caring” during a Strategic Planning Retreat held at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian. The annual team-building event yielded great ideas and encouraged engagement among leaders to further enhance access to VA health care and services. Hosting the event in the community also gave leaders an opportunity to step away from their day-to-day duties, allowing time to recharge, refresh and forge new ideas.

Veterans at the Forefront

Harvey Jacobs

U.S. Army Air Corps 1943 – 1945

“During my service in WW II, I was stationed with the U.S. Eighth Air Force where I flew 23 missions in a B-24 Liberator; Had an identical twin in the Air Force who was killed when his plane crashed into another B-24. No one survived.” Pictured here with his wife Barbara of 62 years.

Operational Excellence

Construction

The year 2013 proved to be a very busy year for Facilities Management Service with numerous renovation and construction projects. To meet the needs of Veterans for years to come, major projects include: new buildings for research and administrative offices, a

new Community Living Center kitchen, a multi-level parking garage providing 440 parking spaces, design for the new 4,771 square foot OEF/OIF/OND Welcome Center, and the renovation of Patient Wing 4C to provide private rooms.

Women’s Health Clinic

Scheduled to open in 2014, the new Women’s Health Clinic will offer Veterans comprehensive health care in a calm and private setting. The new 7,168 square foot space will also offer on-site mammography, an increased number of exam and procedure rooms, a space for complementary and alternative therapies and a larger waiting area with computer access.



Freedom Auditorium

In October, leadership cut the ceremonial ribbon on Freedom Auditorium, named in honor of all Veterans who have served in the military. The 119-seat lecture hall offers state-of-the-art audio and visual technology where health care providers, Veterans and community partners can convene for health education, conferences and events.

OR Streamline

The Medical Center’s Operating Rooms (OR) have undergone an extensive integration project, allowing equipment that is traditionally on the floor, to be placed at the surgeon’s fingertips. Radiologic imaging systems are integrated into the ceiling, cameras are built into the lights and large monitors allow the operation to be viewed by everyone in the room.



Veterans at the Forefront

Ramona Allen
U.S. Navy 1987 – 1991

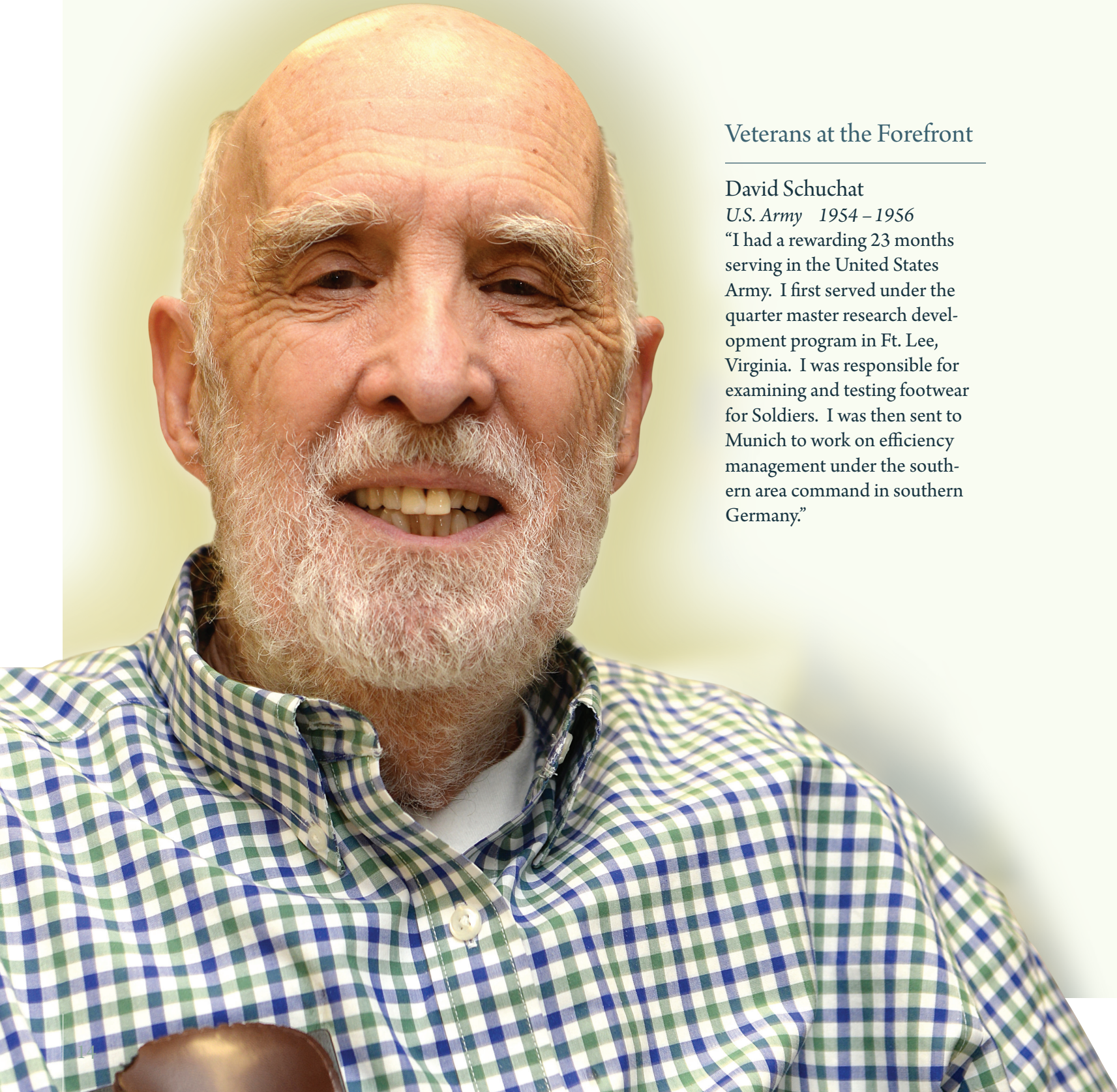
“I was stationed at the Norfolk-Naval base where I was a cook and then moved up to work in the bake shop. My command won the Ney Award twice during my service, which is the highest earned award given to Galleys in the military. I later was selected by my commander to serve in the White House kitchen, although I did not make the final selection it was still a big accomplishment.”

Renovated Audiology and Speech Pathology

Phase one of the newly renovated Audiology Suite has been completed and the space has been transformed. The 1970’s-era paneling has been replaced with modern finishes and the testing booths now have state-of-the-art equipment.



Partnerships



Veterans at the Forefront

David Schuchat
U.S. Army 1954 – 1956
“I had a rewarding 23 months serving in the United States Army. I first served under the quarter master research development program in Ft. Lee, Virginia. I was responsible for examining and testing footwear for Soldiers. I was then sent to Munich to work on efficiency management under the southern area command in southern Germany.”



Setting the Standard - Dignitary Visits

From China to Bermuda, visitors and delegations come from around the world to tour the VA Medical Center in DC. Many receive demonstrations of the

Veterans Affairs’ Computerized Patient Record System and Telehealth system. In 2013, we were honored to host the following visitors:

1. **The Honorable Alex Neil**
(Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing, Scotland)
2. **Ms. Karen Malebranche (SES)**
(Executive Director, VHA Interagency Affairs)
COL Adam Rocke
Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff of the Army and Director, Soldier for Life
and the Army Chief of Staff “Soldier for Life Team”
3. **H.E. WladEve Adams**
Parliamentary Secretary to the Minster of Veterans Affairs
and the Canadian Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs Delegation
4. **H.E. Astrid Krag**
Minister of Health and Prevention, Cabinet of Helle Thorning-Schmidtand
and the Danish Healthcare Delegation
5. **Dr. Shaman Singh**
Co-Director, Clinical Informatics & Requirements Division (CIRD)
and staff of the DoD/VA Interagency Program Office
6. **Dr. Jonah Czerwinski**
Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Director, VA Center for Innovation
7. **Dr. Douglas Garland**
Healthcare and Bioscientific Consultant, DMG Scientific
and **Ms. Tracy L. Prigmore**
FACHE Vice President, Strategy & Business Development
and TLT Solutions Management Consultants
8. **Dr. Guan Tie**
CIO and Vice President, China National Petroleum Corporation Hospital - Langfeng, China
9. **LTG (Ret.) James Peake**
former Secretary of Veterans Affairs
10. **Ms. Robin Osborn**
Vice President and Director, The Commonwealth Fund Staff
and The Harkness Fellows in Policy & Practice Group
11. **Dr. Jesse James**
Senior Medical Officer, OMCO, ONC
and the HHS Innovations Fellows Team
12. **Mr. Tomas Leary**
Vice President, Government Relations, Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMSS)
and The Health Information Management Systems Society (HIMMS) Delegation
13. **Ms. Jackie Patillo**
Information Technology Senior Technical Advisor, Office of the Chief Information Officer
14. **Ms. Kathryn Monet**
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Majority Staff (SVAC)
and **Ms. Victoria Lee**
Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Minority Staff
15. **Permanent Secretary Kevin Monkman**
Ministry of Health & Seniors – Government of Bermuda
16. **Mr. Tim Masias**
Director of Business Operations, Interagency Program Office
17. **Mr. Peter Dejardins**
VA Manager and the PricewaterhouseCoopers Group
18. **Right Honorable (R.T.) Liz Kendall**
Labor Party Shadow Health Minister
(UK Member of Parliament)
19. **Mr. Leon Van Halder, Director**
General for Curative Care at the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport – The Netherlands
and The Netherlands Delegation
20. **H.E. Jeremy Hunt, MP (Member of Parliament)**
Secretary of State for Health (SOS) – United Kingdom
21. **Mrs. Diana Monissen, MB**
CEO, De Friesland Health Insurance Company
and the Dutch Health Insurance Delegation
22. **Ms. Teresa Takai**
Chief Information Officer, Department of Defense
23. **Ms. Deborah Arnot**
Director, NHS North West Leadership Academy
and the North West Leadership Academy (UK)
Board Level Leadership 4 (L4I) Integration
International Delegation

Partnerships

Welcome Home Steering Committee

Concentrating on having the ability to offer an array of services and resources to Veterans and their families, the Medical Center bridged the gap between itself and “Corporate America” with the creation of a formal group partnership. The Executive Leadership established a Community Steering Committee comprised of representatives from: Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind; Capitol One Bank; SunTrust Bank; District of Columbia Hospital Association; and veteran service organizations.

The committee was established to create partnership and collaboration between businesses, organizations and associations throughout the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia. Members of the committee join DC VA Medical Center’s staff in outreach efforts to draw support and broaden awareness of VA programs. Since the establishment of the initial committee, partnerships and collaborations have further developed to include Kasier Permanente, CareFirst, National Park Service, Howard University Radio, Clear Channel Radio, ZIPs Drycleaners, Safeway and Boulder Crest.

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind

DCVAMC’s partnership with Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind (CLB) is helping propel Veterans forward. Many vision impaired Veterans and community members have benefited from this partnership and are employed as telephone operators at the Medical Center. In April, CLB offered their annual first pitch at a Nationals’ game to a deserving DCVAMC Veteran, Jose Resendiz.

A team of DCVAMC Veterans and staff walked the CLB’s third annual Light the Way 5K Run/Walk at Nationals Park. The walk benefited the many programs and services CLB provides to people of all ages who are blind, low vision, and Deaf-Blind.



Secure Online Donation

The Medical Center launched E-Donate in 2013 to provide local community members, area businesses and nonprofit organizations with a safe and quick way to pledge their support to hospitalized Veterans in the DC area. With the click of a mouse, donors can designate where their funds are used such as hospice, homelessness, polytrauma, Fisher House or women Veterans.

Media

It was a very busy year for the Office of Public Affairs which fielded more than 40 media queries from local, specialty, national and international media outlets including Fox News Sunday, Associated Press, USA Today, CBS News and Arte German/French television. The Office of Public Affairs was also instrumental in assisting with several major Veterans Affairs projects including two public service announcements featuring actor Gary Sinise, and the VHA I-Care training videos.

Walk for Waffles

Partnering with the National Park Service, the Medical Center encourages the use of National Parks for recreation therapy, health and wellness. On a crisp fall day, in September, we kicked off our Partnership with the “Walk for Waffles”. Veterans and staff from the Medical Center and the National Park Service staff came together for a 2K hike in Prince William Forest Park in Triangle Virginia.

Participants enjoyed fun, music, camaraderie and waffles prepared by WHUR’s “Fitness Friday” radio host, Darryl Haley.



Veterans at the Forefront

Lauren Brown
U.S. Air Force 1996 – 2001
“I served my time in an operations center as a combat rescue controller where I coordinated rescues of distressed airmen while in South Carolina and Saudi Arabia.”

Diversity Day

The Medical Center staff celebrated its diverse population--26 nationalities with a Diversity Day Outdoor Fair. The event featured a Native American Indian Grand Entry Ceremony, a Pow Wow demonstration, Dragon Dancers, Latin Dancers, Panamanian Dancers, a cultural dress fashion show, choirs and food samplings. Community Partners such as the University of Maryland Multi Ethnic Student Education, Easter Seals and the Maryland Health Care System rounded out the event.

Outreach *Engaging Veterans staff and Community*

Ladies' Night

On November 22, the Washington DC VA Medical Center hosted its Ladies' Night. The annual outreach event encourages women Veterans to enroll for VA care and offers a welcoming setting to spotlight gender-specific health care programs and services. Not only did the 2013 event see its largest number of female Veterans, but also had more donors and sponsors than previous years. There was a mini concert, featuring Grammy-nominated singer Carolyn Malachi, food, jewelry making sessions, relaxation therapies and pampering. Women Veterans learned about VA health care, benefits and resources in a fun, relaxing and comforting environment.



Veterans at the Forefront

Iris Glasgow

U.S. Air Force 2003 – 2005

“I served as an Information Officer during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. But actually some of my most memorable moments of military service were from basic training. Being able to meet women from different states and different cultures and really getting to know them was an amazing experience. I still keep in touch with many of those I met back then.”



Winterhaven Homeless Veterans Stand Down

More than 400 homeless and at-risk Veterans attended the annual Winterhaven Homeless Veterans Stand Down outreach event which brought together more than 70 community and government agencies. The one-stop venue provided medical screenings, mental health consultations, employment support and housing services and a number of community resources to eligible Veterans. The event saw record numbers as services were expanded to include unemployed and under-employed Veterans. National media outlets and local media partners covered the event in support of the Department of Veterans Affairs' goal to end homelessness among Veterans.

Welcome Home: A Salute to Service

The Medical Center hosted the seventh annual “Welcome Home: A Salute to Service”, to honor recently returned combat Veterans and active duty service members and their families at the Nationals Event Tent. At least 410 Veterans attended the one-stop venue which brought together the Department of Veterans Affairs, city officials, veteran service organizations, and community partners to offer local Veterans health care and benefits information, employment, education, entrepreneurship and housing opportunities.



National Nurses Week

Nursing Service kicked off National Nurses Week with a special speaker, co-author of “Chicken Soup for the Nurse’s Soul” author, LeAnn Thieman. Employees were inspired by the award-winning nurse/presenter who spoke about nurse retention and work-life balance.

NBC4 Health and Wellness Expo

The Washington DC VA Medical Center’s outreach team partnered with VBA for the annual NBC-4 Health and Fitness Expo. The expo is the largest and most attended city-wide health fair held in this region. This event introduces Veterans to VA health care enrollment, the benefits and claims processes and Veterans receive one-on-one assistance with MyHealthVet and EBenefits enrollment and authentication. During the event, 80 new Veterans enrolled for health care and many more were recruited for volunteer service.



Awards

Creative Arts

Across the country each year, Veterans treated at VA facilities compete locally and nationally in the Creative Arts Festival. Veterans from the Washington DC VA Medical Center’s Art Therapy Program won eight gold, four silver and eight bronze medals in the National Veterans Affairs Creative Arts Festival held in Reno, Nevada. The use of creative arts is a vibrant and vital component of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from physical and emotional disabilities. Locally, the Medical Center receives between 100 and 150 entries each year in a variety of different category division including visual arts, music, drama, dance and creative writing divisions.

Gold Cornerstone Award

The Patient Safety Office was recognized by the VA National Center for Patient Safety (NCPS) for its patient safety initiatives. The NCPS initiated the Cornerstone Program to recognize leaders in patient safety and to enhance the Root Cause Analysis (RCA) process. The award recognizes timeliness in completing RCAs, the quality of the analysis with the strength of the recommending actions as well as the quantity of RCAs.

VHA Communications

The Office of Public Affairs was honored by the Veterans Health

Administration (VHA) with a 1st place Communications Award in the Web-based Media, Social Media category. The team’s “Get Social” campaign embarked on an aggressive effort to not only increase “likes” and “followers” on Facebook and Twitter but also to improve reach and Veteran engagement.

DC VA Medical Center grew its social media following from 22nd place at the beginning of FY 13 to 3rd place (Oct. 2013) in Facebook “Likes” among all VA Medical Centers which have Facebook pages. Among VHA Twitter Feeds, the Medical Center’s Twitter followers jumped from number 17 to number six, from 502 to 1,294.

Ref: VHA Social Media Reports

Women Leaders in Medicine Award

Chief Hospitalist, Dr. Katherine Chretien, was recognized with the Women Leaders in Medicine Award by the American Medical Student Association. The award recognizes women physicians who are changing the face of medicine. Dr. Chretien is also associate professor in medicine at George Washington University. Her work has been published in medical journals such as *JAMA*, *Annals of Internal Medicine*, *Academic Medicine*, *Medical Education* and *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

AMVETS National Awards

AMVETS recognized three members of the Washington DC VA Medical Center team. Medical Center Director, Brian A. Hawkins, was presented the “AMVETS Special Award of the Year” for his outstanding leadership in support of more than 80,000 Veterans enrolled for care at the Medical Center. AMVETS Deputy Commander, Aaron J. Smith, also presented Chief of Chaplain Service, Clarence Cross, with the “AMVETS Civil Servant of the Year” and Compensated Work Therapy Coordinator, Coniece Washington, with the “AMVETS Americanism Award”.

CFC Awards

The Combined Federal Campaign National Capital Area recognized Washington DC VA Medical Center with two awards in 2013: the Summit Award, which is presented to the organization which had a 3% increase over last year and a Participation Achievement Award, which recognizes organizations which had at least a 2% increase in participation.

Washington DC VA Medical Center employees pledged \$97,000, well exceeding last year’s goal of \$75,000.

Quality Respiratory Care Recognition

For the fourth consecutive year, Respiratory Care Service was recognized by the American Association for Respiratory Care with the “Quality Respiratory Care Recognition”. This designation means we meet strict safety and quality standards for services performed by qualified respiratory therapists.

Distinguished Researcher Award

Dr. Fred Gordin, Chief, Infectious Diseases was honored by The George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences with the “Distinguished Researcher Award”. His latest work has advanced the world’s knowledge of HIV and the treatment and prevention of tuberculosis.

The George Alexander Memorial Volunteer Service Award

The Blinded American Veterans Foundation (BAVF) honored Washington DC VA Medical Center Advocacy Officer, Jonathon Wilson, with “The George Alexander Memorial Volunteer Service Award”. The award honors those who volunteer their time and energy on behalf of Veterans and never ask for any recognition.

Outstanding Achievement in Social Work

Three social workers from the Washington DC VA Medical Center were recognized by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) with an “Outstanding Achievement” award. The award represents the professionalism and dedication they display in their daily work with Veterans.

Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality

DCVAMC was named a leader in LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender) Health Care Equality in the Healthcare Equality Index 2013. The Medical Center was one of a select group of 464 healthcare facilities nationwide to be named Leaders in LGBT Healthcare Equality. DCVAMC is proud to provide a welcoming health care environment for all.

Master in the American College of Physicians

The Medical Center’s Chief, Infectious Disease, Dr. Fred Gordin, was named a Master in the American College of Physicians. This is the highest designation given by the organization and is only awarded to a very small group in the U.S. each year.

Employee Recognition Section

Transformational Leaders: Each year, the Washington DC VA Medical Center recognizes outstanding supervisors who serve as role models of Capitol Excellence. In 2013, four managers were named Transformational Leaders: Clarence Cross, Chief, Chaplain Service; Lori Cook, Mental Health Clinic Coordinator; Dr. Phillip Seton, Chief, Emergency Department; and Michael Roth, Chief, Facilities Management Service.

Employees of the Month

Marietta Bell
Business Office - December 2013
Slavomir Zapata, Ph.D
Mental Health Service - November 2013
Estelita Santos, RN
Nursing Service - October 2013
Robert Andrews
Medical Media - September 2013
Kathy Kalinyak
Pathology and Laboratory - August 2013
Sheila Washington-Shields
Business Office - July 2013
Charlene Greene
Fiscal Service - June 2013
Kamora Barr
EMS - May 2013
Lakkisha Clarke
Nutrition and Food Service - April 2013
Stephanie Johnson, LPN
Nursing Service - March 2013
Ernestine Hatton, RN
Nursing Service - February 2013
Dinea McAdams
Business Office - January 2013



WASHINGTON DC
VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER
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